(d) Government have so far contracted 23 exploration blocks to private/joint venture companies of which 19 exploration blocks have been contracted during last three years (1996-97 to 1998-99). Oil discovery has so far been made in one exploration block during August, 1999, in Barmer district of Rajasthan. Exploration success is area specific and depends upon several geological factors. Company wise comparison is not apt because different areas are held by various companies/PSUs with different geological characteristics.

Fall in Crude Oil Production

1657. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in crude oil production since 1998-99;

(b) if so, what are the details of the crude production for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, so far;

(c) the reason for the fall in production; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production of crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PON-NUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The production of crude oil during April to October, 1999 was higher at 19.08 million metric tonne (MMT) as compared to the level of production of 18.92 MMT achieved in the corresponding period during the year 1998-99. The level of production during 1997-98 and 1998-99 was as under—

Year	Production of Crude Oil (MMT)
1997-9S	33.85
1998-99	32.72

(d) Steps taken to increase production of crude oil are:—

(i) Optimizing production from existing fields through better reservoir management, 3-D seismic surveys, infill drilling, pressure maintenance, installation/optimisation of artificial lift system and use of advanced and cost effective technologies.

(ii) Faster development of new discoveries.

(iii) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as—

(a) Exploration of deeper prospects in existing fields.

(b) Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.

(iv) Increased private participation in exploration and production activities.

LPG and Petrol Pumps allotted in the Country

1658. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies and Petrol pumps allotted during the last five years in the country, Statewise;

(b) the details of the norms of fixing quota for reservation in allotment in this regard;

(c) the district-wise details of the agencies being allotted and targeted to be opened in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the details of district-wise advertised places and the places where applicants as per the reserved quota were not available in the State?

THE MINISTER OF SI ATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Following reservation has been provided for different categories in the allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products:—